27. The various "Grow More Food Schemes" which we have undertaken are progressing satisfactorily and have begun to yield good results. The reclamation of land for extensive cultivation, the harnessing of the rivers for irrigation purposes and the application of improved methods of agriculture, are some of the main items in our Grow More Food programme. By means of Lift Irrigation schemes we have already succeeded in converting vast areas of single-crop lands into double crop lands. The total provision for food production schemes in the budget for 1951—52 is well over Rs. 1·5 crores. This includes Rs. 4·65 lakhs for the Vandanmettu Land Reclamation Scheme, Rs. 10 lakhs for the Neyyar Project, Rs. 15 lakhs for the Vembanad Tidal Bund and Spillway, Rs. 38·05 lakhs for minor irrigation works, Rs. 29·26 lakhs for intensive manuring, Rs. 6·13 lakhs for Punja cultivation, Rs. 7·53 lakhs for extension of electric lines to the Kuttanad and kole areas, and Rs. 4 lakhs for well-sinking and tank improvement schemes.

Education

28. In the field of education this State has always been ahead of the rest of India and we are maintaining steady progress in increasing the educational facilities available to the people. The Education Budget provides for Rs. 331·95 lakhs for ordinary expenditure besides Rs. 9 lakhs for construction of buildings under P.W.D., making a total of about Rs. 341 lakhs, which is nearly 25 per cent of the total revenue of the State. This includes provision for the extension of Compulsory Primary Education to two more taluks, namely, Shencottah and Chittoor, organisation of basic education at Cherpu, introduction of Mathematics and Economics Honours Courses in the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, revival of the Training College at Trichur and implementing the scheme relating to private Secondary Schools. A provision of Rs. 5 lakhs has been made for the opening of a Polytechnic Institute in the State.

29. Government have also fixed a block grant of Rs. 25 lakhs for the University against Rs. 21 lakhs for the current year.

30. The library movement is steadily becoming more and more popular with the help of liberal grants made by the Government to rural libraries whose control and supervision are being allowed gradually to pass into the hands of popular and democratic bodies, like the Travancore-Cochin Library Association. The Adult Education Scheme is also progressing satisfactorily and an adult education centre was recently opened in Trivandrum.

Medical and Public Health

31. The Government are fully alive to their primary duty of providing medical relief to the people, and increasing provision is being made in the budget, year after year, for carrying out measures for protecting the health of the people, and for preventing the out-break of epidemics. In the Budget for 1948—49 a provision of Rs. 82·82 lakhs was made for the Medical and Public Health Departments. This was increased to Rs. 119·71 lakhs in 1950-51 and for the next year the expenditure is fixed at Rs. 135·24 lakhs.

32. At the beginning of the current financial year the total number of medical institutions in the State was 190. Seven new dispensaries were opened since and two more dispensaries will be opened shortly at Parakadavu and Samboorvadakara. A provision of Rs. 1 lakh is made in the next year's budget for new dispensaries. An expenditure of Rs. 3 lakhs in addition to the provision of nearly Rs. 11 lakhs was incurred during the current year for improving the diet given to patients. Formerly there was no provision for giving diet to in-patients in the dispensaries in Travancore area. It has now been decided to supply rice at the rate of 10 oz. per day to the in-patients free of charge, the arrangements for cooking being made by the patients themselves; This arrangement will afford great relief to the poor patients

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Sri. A. J. John]

in our dispensaries. The lump sum provision of Rs. 10 lakhs in the Medical Budget for this year has also been made use of for supplying more medicines and surgica and other instruments to the hospitals and for carrying out urgent works of repairs and maintenance to buildings which were being neglected for want of adequate funds.

33. A new spacious and well-furnished Pay-ward has been opened in the General Hospital, Trivandrum. An up-to-date building for the Ophthalmic Hospital at Trivandrum is nearing completion. It is expected that the Avittam Thirunal Hospital at Olloor, will be completed before the end of next year. A new women and Children's Hospital will be opened shortly at Alleppey and extensive additions costing about Rs. 2 lakhs will be made to the Hospital at Trichur.

Tuberculosis Control

34. *B. C. G. Vaccination Work.*—We have made great strides in the anti-tuberculosis campaign. B. C. G. Vaccination work was started in Nagercoil Municipal Town and suburbs in July 1942. It was extended later to Trivandrum, Quilon, Mattancherry, Kottayam, Alwaye, Changanacherry and Pulinkunnu. There are 6 teams working at present. Special arrangements have also been made to enable the public to get vaccinated at the Public Health Laboratory at Trivandrum.

35. *T. B. Clinic, Trivandrum.*—An up-to-date T. B. Clinic will be established in Trivandrum with the generous assistance of the World Health Organisation authorities, who have consented to supply, free of cost, equipment worth more than Rs. 6 to 7 lakhs. This Clinic will serve as a demonstration and training centre. The Foreign personnel has already arrived and the Clinic will start functioning immediately.

36. *T. B. Sanatorium.*—The construction of the T. B. Sanatorium at Mulakunnathukavu and the T. B. Clinic at Palluruthy has been completed and they began to admit patients early in October 1950. The Mulakunnathukavu Sanatorium, which is constructed and equipped on the most modern lines, will provide accommodation for 150 patients and has facilities for adequate expansion in future. Government have already spent about Rs. 10 lakhs on the construction of this Sanatorium and the estimated cost of the works remaining to be done is about Rs. 9 lakhs. A provision of Rs. 1 lakh is included in the budget for next year.

Public Health

37. *Maternity and Child Welfare.*—The scope of midwifery service in the State is being increased steadily from year to year by establishing midwifery centres in the rural areas. At the time of the last budget session in March 1950, there were 174 such centres functioning. During this year five more centres have been started. The main difficulty which is felt in the more rapid expansion of this service is the lack trained personnel. A class for training midwives to meet the immediate needs of the Medical, Public Health and Village Uplift. Departments has been completed during this year and obout 55 duly qualified candidates will be available for appointment as midwives in the Public Health and Village Uplift Centres. Additional centres will be opened immediately. It is proposed to place a trained Lady Doctor in charge of the entire work, assisted by trained Health Visitors in different parts of the State. Arrarngements have already been made to get a suitable candidate trained for the work at the Medical College, Culcutta, during the next session.

38. *Rural Water Supplies.*—This scheme which was started in 1947 has, as its main object, the sinking of wells in the rural areas to provide drinking water to the population. Till April 1950, 140 wells were sunk at a cost of Rs. 2·3 lakhs and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly